

Lesson Plan

Bat Stats

Book: *We Need Bats*

Series: The Animal Files

Level: Navigator

Objective

To help students practice locating information in multiple print and digital sources.

Supplies

- *We Need Bats* book
- Bat Stats worksheet (attached)
- Bat Shapes page (attached)
- Computer access for students
- Butcher paper
- Paper, pencils, and pens

Before the Activity

Print a copy of the Bat Stats worksheet for each student. Also print enough copies of the Bat Shapes page for each student to have two bat shapes.

Activity

Read *We Need Bats* out loud to students, or assign it to students to read on their own. Then give each student a Bat Stats worksheet and two bat shapes. Ask students to use the following articles to fill in the blanks on the worksheet:

- “Bat” on the San Diego Zoo website: <https://animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/bat>
- “Basic Facts About Bats” on the Defenders of Wildlife website: <https://defenders.org/bats/basic-facts>

As students read the online articles, they should also look for facts about bats that they think are especially surprising or interesting. Students should write one fact on each bat shape. Each fact should be a complete sentence. Once students have completed the worksheet, call on a few students to share the facts they chose with the class. Then have students use a large sheet of butcher paper to create a drawing of a cave (adding chambers, passageways, stalagmites, stalactites, etc.). Students should tape their bat shapes to this paper to create a bat colony on the classroom wall.

Evaluation

Use the attached answer key to give students 1 point for filling in each blank, for a total of 18 points.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 3 (RI 3.5).

Bat Stats

1. Bats are divided into _____ main groups called suborders.
2. There _____ species of bats.
3. Only _____ bat species feed on blood.
4. _____ percent of bats eat insects.
5. The largest bat species can have a wingspan of _____ feet.
6. The smallest species has a wingspan of less than _____ inches.
7. The heaviest bat weighs more than _____ pounds.
8. A baby bat can weigh _____ percent as much as its mother when it's born.
9. Mother bats nurse pups for _____ to _____ months.
10. A pup learns to fly _____ to _____ weeks after it is born.
11. One bat species travels _____ miles each year!
12. _____ bat species can be found in the United States.
13. Most bats live for _____ years.
14. A little brown bat can live up to _____ years in the wild.
15. One little brown bat can eat as many as _____ mosquitoes in one hour.
16. A bat's ears can be more than _____ times as big as its head.

Bat Stats

1. Bats are divided into _____ main groups called suborders.
2. There _____ species of bats.
3. Only _____ bat species feed on blood.
4. _____ percent of bats eat insects.
5. The largest bat species can have a wingspan of _____ feet.
6. The smallest species has a wingspan of less than _____ inches.
7. The heaviest bat weighs more than _____ pounds.
8. A baby bat can weigh _____ percent as much as its mother when it's born.
9. Mother bats nurse pups for _____ to _____ months.
10. A pup learns to fly _____ to _____ weeks after it is born.
11. One bat species travels _____ miles each year!
12. _____ bat species can be found in the United States.
13. Most bats live for _____ years.
14. A little brown bat can live up to _____ years in the wild.
15. One little brown bat can eat as many as _____ mosquitoes in one hour.
16. A bat's ears can be more than _____ times as big as its head.

Bat Stats **Answer Key**

1. Bats are divided into 2 main groups called suborders.
2. There are 951 species of bats.
3. Only 3 bat species feed on blood.
4. 70 percent of bats eat insects.
5. The largest bat species can have a wingspan of 6 feet.
6. The smallest species has a wingspan of less than 6 inches.
7. The heaviest bat weighs more than 3 pounds.
8. A baby bat can weigh 25 percent as much as its mother when it's born.
9. Mother bats nurse pups for 2 to 6 months.
10. A pup learns to fly 3 to 6 weeks after it is born.
11. One bat species travels 2,400 miles each year!
12. 47 bat species can be found in the United States.
13. Most bats live for 5 years.
14. A little brown bat can live up to 30 years in the wild.
15. One little brown bat can eat as many as 1,000 mosquitoes in one hour.
16. A bat's ears can be more than 5 times as big as its head.

Bat Shapes

